

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Poverty is a social phenomena and reality in the society. According to Sen (in Baswir, 1997:19) poverty is a matter of lack the capability to fulfill the material necessity properly. In other words poverty means failure to reach degree of certain minimum properness. As a parameter Sen gives what he calls as properness factors. Among of them are: free from famine and disease, has ability to participate in society life, has proper house, and has ability to visit his family.

Based on its causality poverty can be divided in to three kinds. They are Natural poverty, Cultural poverty, and Structural poverty. Natural poverty is poverty which is caused by natural factors such as by disabled, sick, being old, or disaster. Cultural poverty is poverty which is caused by cultural factors such as laziness, indiscipline, wasteful, and others. While Structural poverty is poverty which is caused by human creation factors such as productive asset distribution which does not spread evenly, injustice economic policy, corruption and collusion, and world economic order which inclined exceptionally beneficial to certain social class.

From the three causalities above, structural poverty gives biggest contribution to the persistence of poverty, because it relates to the system which is created by human. There are groups which get advantages and in

other side get disadvantages. This injustice can be seen clearly in the industrial society where there are two classes which oppose each other. They are bourgeoisie or capitalist and proletariat. The bourgeoisie consist of the owner of the productive resources upon which the proletariat works. Bourgeoisie makes its living primarily from profit, interest and rent, although it may earn some of its income from wages paid for managerial work and for the coordination of risk-taking ventures. While Proletariat is the class that makes its living from sale of its labor power.

Such condition can be found in America after the Second World War and the cold war. Although in the fifties America remained the richest nation known to history, however there was still social class which did not get prosperity yet. They were the labors and farmers who sold their power. Furthermore about 2.25 million immigrants entered the country in the fifties. They worked in the industrial and farming as labor.

This uneasy life has inspired John Grisham to write a novel which narrates the cotton farmer' struggle to reach prosperity. John Grisham was born February 8, 1955 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. His father was a cotton farmer who moved the family to Southaven, Mississippi, in 1967. John graduated from Southaven High School in 1973 and enrolled in Northwest Junior College, Senatobia, Mississippi. John Grisham as a child dreamed of being a professional baseball player. Realizing he didn't have the right stuff for a pro career, he shifted gears and majored in accounting at Mississippi State University. After graduating from law school at Ole Miss in 1981, he went on

to practice law for nearly a decade in Southaven, specializing in criminal defense and personal injury litigation. His experiences with judges, courts and police have been useful in writing his novels. In 1983 the voters of Mississippi's Seventh District elected John Grisham to represent them in the Mississippi House of Representatives in Jackson. He began writing fiction in 1984 while in the legislature and finished his first book *A Time to Kill* in 1987. John Grisham's writing career skyrocketed and brought him international fame. Grisham served two terms as a state representative. He served in the legislature until 1990 (Hosie, 2005: 1).

John Grisham has now published ten books: *A Time to Kill*, *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Chamber*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Runaway Jury*, *The Partner*, *The Street Lawyer*, and *The Testament*. All have been "best sellers" both in the United States and in Europe. All his books contain information from politics and the legal profession. John Grisham writes from his experiences in both areas. He is also the publisher of the magazine *The Oxford American* (Hosie, 2005: 2).

A Painted House is one of his best seller novels about life of cotton farmer family in Black Oak, Southern Arkansas in the early September 1950's. *A Painted House* skillfully captures a lost way of life in the rural south, where extended families lived close to the earth and closer to the rules of a stern God. It cleverly seizes the audience's attention and points out the hardships farmers faced in the fifties. Although it is not solely about farming, it is set around a farmer family trying to scrape together enough money from

their cotton field to pay off their debts and come even (Johnson, 2004: 4). In whole *A Painted House* narrates that economic system does not give advantages to the labor and farmer.

Based on the statement above, the writer uses the Marxist approach to analyze the novel. The study entitles STRUGGLE FOR PROSPERITY IN JOHN GRISHAM 'S *A PAINTED HOUSE*: A MARXIST APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

There are two researchers who have conducted different studies of *A Painted House* for their research paper. Among others are the research paper of Yusuf Arif Hidayanto and Anita Novianti. Yusuf studied the novel for his research paper entitled *The Family's influences on Luke Chandler in John Grisham's A Painted House: A Behaviorist Approach*. The second one is Anita Novianti studied the novel for her research paper entitled *Curiosity about Adult Life House in John Grisham's A Painted House: A Developmental Psychological Perspective*.

Different with the study before, the present study focused on the struggle for prosperity in John Grisham's *A Painted House*: A MARXIST APPROACH.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of this study is how the struggle for prosperity is portrayed in John Grisham's *A Painted House*.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher limits the study to analyze the struggle for prosperity based on Marxist approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the research are:

1. To describe the structural element of the novel
2. To analyze the novel based on the Marxism perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of study is expected to support the Marxist theories and to implement its principles into the literary work.

2. Practical Benefit

For getting the bachelor degree of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

Object of the study is John Grisham's *A Painted House*.

2. Sources of the Data

In these studies there are two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources.

- a. The primary data source of the study is the novel *A Painted House* written by John Grisham, Copy right 2001, Belfry Holdings, Inc.
- b. Secondary data sources. Supporting data are taken from other sources such as the author's biography, essay, comment, historical information and other relevant information.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting technique used in the study is the literary research, the necessary steps are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeated
- b. Taking note of the important parts in both primary and secondary sources
- c. Classifying the data by rejecting the relevant information which doesn't support the topic of the study.

4. Technique of Data Analysis

In the analyzing the datum, the writer employs descriptive analysis and hermeneutic.

H. Paper Organization

In order to make the research is easier to follow, the research paper is organized in to six chapters, as follow: chapter one is introduction, covering background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of the study, the benefit of the study, review of the literary study, research method and the thesis organization. Chapter two covers Marxism approach containing Marxist

literary criticism, especially the nature of Marxist, the founders, the principles and the Marxist theory and literary criticism. Chapter three includes the social background with all of the aspects of the social reality of the American society in the nineteenth century. Chapter four includes the structural analysis of the novel by describing character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, and theme of the novel and a brief discussion. Chapter five present Marxist analysis deals with the problems of the novel and chapter six consist of conclusion and suggestion.